



Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule January, 2015

Programs meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail unless otherwise noted. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5153 for updates. See www.nps.gov/sagu for other programs.

January 2, 16 8:00 a.m. **Desert Bird Walk** 1 mile guided walk

Join volunteer naturalist Ralph Terry for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

January 2, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30 10:00 a.m. **Sonoran Lifestyles** 1 mile guided walk

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

January 2, 23, 30 11:00 a.m. **Naturalist Table** *Patio Talk*

Join a park naturalist on the visitor center patio to explore a variety of natural history topics. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 2, 23, 30 2:00 p.m. **Drive-Thru Geology** 1 hour auto tour

Hop in your car for a journey through 25 million years of earth history...in one hour! We'll observe the varied landforms of the desert – bajadas, washes, outcrops – and find out why geology students from around the world come to see the Rincon Mountain foothills. (Hint: it's the mylonitic gneiss!)

January 2, 16, 30 3:00 p.m. **Creating Saguaro National Park** *presentation*

Join staff in the visitor center auditorium to discover how abuse, failure, politics, commitment, recovery and the Tucson Garden Club all played a part in creating today's Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 3, 18, 24, 25, 31 10:00 a.m. **Cactus Garden Walk** *Stroll*
19, 21, 26, 28 3:00 p.m.

Take a stroll with a park naturalist through the Cactus Garden just outside the visitor center to discover what makes the Sonoran Desert such a special place.

January 3, 10, 24, 31 11:00 a.m. **History 101** *guided walk*

Join a park ranger on a 1 to 2-mile walk and learn about some of the history that has made Saguaro National Park the great place it is today.

January 3, 10, 24, 31 4:30 p.m. **Sunset Stroll** ½ mile guided walk

Sonoran Desert sunsets are famous for their blazing colors. Join a park ranger to discover how nature will paint the sky tonight.

January 4, 11, 18, 25 11:00 a.m. **The GIANT Cactus** ¾ mile guided walk

Saguaro National Park is famous for its gigantic saguaros. Still, you have to know where to look to find a real giant among giants. The best way is to join a ranger for a walk along a desert wash for a lesson in trees of the desert and a look at the only tree-like cactus in the U.S. You'll be surprised by the size! Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

January 4, 11 1:00 p.m. **Meet the Hohokam** *presentation*

Join a park ranger in the visitor center auditorium for a hands-on introduction to the prehistoric people who once called Saguaro National Park home. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 4, 11 3:00 p.m. **Medicinal Plants of the Desert** *presentation*
Learn about some of the native plants that are both easy on the eye and can make you feel better as well. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 7, 14, 21, 28 9:00 a.m. **Desert Morning Hike** *guided hike*
Join volunteer Dick Hollenback on this 3-hour, 4-mile hike to explore Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring water and a trail snack.

January 8 7:00 p.m. **Star Party** *illustrated program & activity*
Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. **Reservations required. Call 733-5153.** *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 9, 23 3:00 p.m. **History is a Work in Progress** *presentation*
Join us in the visitor center auditorium to explore the almost forgotten names of people and places from the late 1800's in the area of the Rincon Mountains. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 9, 23 7:00 p.m. **Night Walk** *1 mile guided walk*
Join a park naturalist for this easy two-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, **advanced reservations are required**, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

January 19, 20, 26, 27 11:00 a.m. **A Taste of the Desert** *garden walk*
Join us for a stroll through our cactus garden and learn what plants can be used for food, clothing, medicine, shelter and much more. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 22, 29 2:00 p.m. **The Saguaro Nursery** *½ mile guided walk*
The reports of the saguaro's demise were greatly exaggerated! Take a stroll along a trail to see the next generation of young saguaros and the gradual renewal of the "Cactus Forest"

January 27 2:00 p.m. **Reptiles of the Sonoran Desert** *Presentation*
Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 28 10:00 a.m. **Desert Discovery** *2-mile guided hike*
Join park naturalists on this two-hour, 2-mile walk to discover the secrets of the Sonoran Desert. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.